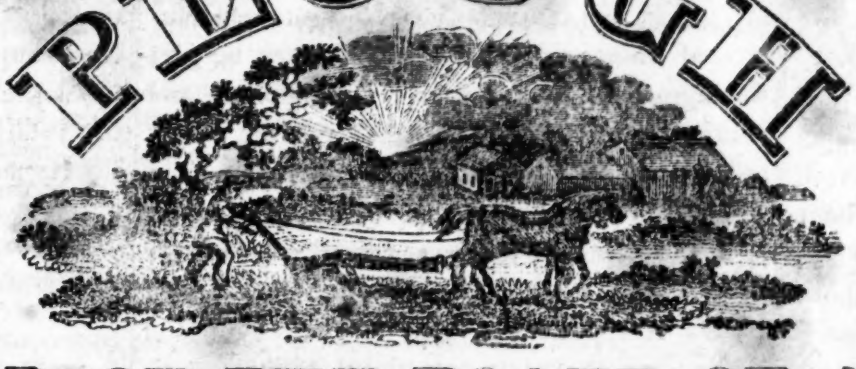
# THE PLOUGH BOY.



## AND JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BY SOLOMON SOUTHWICK.

"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."—BUT—"He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread."—*Ecclesiastes.*

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## ORIGINAL.

### THE MORAL PLOUGH BOY.—No. XXIII.

"That tomb, the view of which can awaken some sentiment, and that has some history annexed to it, is worthy to be preserved."

Veneration for the memory of the illustrious dead, has in all ages distinguished the better sort of mankind. Even rude and barbarous nations have not been destitute of this sentiment.—"Though the plains of our battles are dark and silent, our fame is in the four grey stones," is the language of Ossian; and numerous examples may be cited from the history of civilized nations, wherein a whole people have partaken of this feeling, so honorable to human nature; and particular days, by common consent, have been set apart, as sacred to the memory of the Saint, the Sage, or the Hero, whose life had conferred blessings upon the age in which he lived.

It is one of those days, thus consecrated in the affections of a whole people, that we have devoted to the writing of this article: And what day more appropriate, than that which gave birth to WASHINGTON, could we seize upon, to recommend to our readers the patronage of an Institution, whose object it is to preserve the features, as well as the name, of every American, who may have rendered himself conspicuous in the service of his country, and of mankind.

In the narrow circles of domestic life, the habitual or natural affections of the human heart, dictate the propriety of preserving family likenesses. These fond memorials of departed worth and virtue, so dear to the feelings of connubial, paternal or filial affection, are carefully handed down, through successive generations, so long as the family retains any portion of its ancient spirit and character: For it must be supposed, that a certain degree of what is called respectability, or standing in society, is generally attained, before the aid of the pencil is called in, to preserve the lineaments of faces, which might otherwise be lost for ever in the dust and gloom of the sepulchre.

With what delightful, though melancholly recollections, do the bereaved wife and husband contemplate the portraits of those beings, whom the grave has swallowed, but whose living presence was once wont to shed upon their daily walks the rays of tenderness and affection! And whose features, preserved by the hand of art, still possess an inexpressible charm, and throw over the hour of solitude an illusion no less sweet than melancholly; for we cannot but agree with a great poet of nature, that pleasant but mournful to the soul, is the memory of past joys.

Parents, in like manner, indulge the noblest feelings of our nature, when they preserve the Portraits of deceased children, who have been cut off prematurely, though bidding fair, perhaps, to raise to themselves an honorable name in the annals of mankind: And what tender parent can repress this solicitude to keep alive in the memory and imagination, those beloved features, which have sunk in the long night of the grave—the grave that spoils

"the dance of youthful blood,
"Takes out the dimple from the cheek of mirth,
"And every smiling feature from the face."

Equally dear to the lover and the friend, is the fond remembrance of departed excellence: And the feelings of love and friendship have ever found in the arts of painting and poetry, those high and holy gratifications, which assimilate men to angels, and which have their pure and sacred springs in the deepest recesses of the heart.—The love of HERO and LEANDER, will ever be dwelt upon with admiration by the classical reader of pure and ardent feelings, as will the friendship of DAVID and JONATHAN by every generous mind, who contemplates their history, as recorded in the volume of inspiration. But without resorting to antiquity, who does not remember the gallant ANDRE, whose name is so intimately connected with the American revolution, and whose ignominious fate the good and the brave of all nations will never cease to lament? And who can read the apostrophe which the glowing imagination of ANNA SEWARD has made that interesting and unfortunate youth address to the portrait of his mistress, without acknowledging that it speaks the language of nature, and shows how lively is the aid which painting and poetry are capable of imparting to the passion of love. In the critical moment of his capture, he concealed the portrait from the honest veterans, into whose hands he had fallen; and it is in relation to this incident, that the fair author makes him exclaim:—

"What tho' Honora's voice no more shall charm!
No more her beamy smile my bosom warm!
Yet from these eyes shall force forever tear
The sacred image of that form so dear?
Shade of my love, tho' mute and cold thy charms,
Ne'er hast thou blest my happy rival's arms:
To my fond heart each dawn has seen thee prest;
Each night has laid thee pillow'd on my breast!
Force shall not tear thee from thy faithful shrine,
Shade of my love, thou shalt be ever mine!"

But the pallet and pencil reach the climax of their dignity and utility, when employed to preserve in the memory of nations, the features of their illustrious patriots; their men of genius and of science; their guardians in war, and their benefactors in peace. It is then that they become instruments, in the hands of the skilful artist, to rouse into exertion the noblest energies of humanity; it is then that they are employed

"To wake the soul, by tender strokes of art,
"To raise the genius, and to mend the heart:"

It is then that they shed, from the tomb, a light

upon the path of the living, to lead the aspiring soul, through "glory's bright career," to the possession of honours unfading and immortal.

An ingenious and learned author, in his essay on Sepulchres, has proposed to erect "some memorial of the illustrious dead in all ages, on the spot where their remains have been interred." The proposition is certainly the offspring of a generous sentiment; a catholic principle, which overlooks the petty boundaries of empires, and awards to the great and the good of every clime, the homage of universal veneration. The author of this proposition, however, has been styled a visionary by one class of readers; and perhaps this effusion of a magnanimous heart may be set down by many as one of the day-dreams of his wild philosophy.

Monuments, we admit, are more durable than portraits, and especially mere family portraits, which are too often lost as families decline and fall in the succcssive mutations of human life.—But monuments preserve only the names of the illustrious dead, with sometimes a brief outline of their noblest actions. Portraits preserve their features, which besides their value, when estimated by the feelings of love, friendship and consanguinity, afford to the philosophic observer an opportunity of tracing those nice analogies, which a certain school believe to exist in the expression of the countenance, and the character or deeds of men. In this point of view, portraits have greatly the advantage, and frequently become the subjects of keen and exquisite speculation: And whatever may be said in derision of LAVATER's system, his disciples have increased, and at present there are not wanting among them men who stand high in the ranks of science.

In glancing at the proposition above quoted, which contains the essence of mementorial piety, we are led by a natural transition to the main object of this article, which is, to recommend earnestly to our fellow-countrymen to encourage the establishment of A GALLERY OF NATIONAL PORTRAITS. We rejoice to have it in our power to state that such an institution is not merely in embryo. It has been brought into existence, through the enterprising spirit, and indefatigable assiduity of JOSEPH DELAPLAINE, of Philadelphia. This Gallery contains, at the present moment, the Portraits of all, or nearly all, the distinguished actors in the American revolution. It goes, indeed, beyond that great epoch, and presents to the eye of the admiring spectator the forms and features of many illustrious men, who were the pride and glory of the Infant Colonies; nor are those who have figured on the national stage, since the era of the revolution, neglected or forgotten. The number is every day increasing, and the proprietor loses no opportunity of adding to his collection every subject worthy of a place in this galaxy of splendid and venerable figures. Americans! can any Institution be more worthy of your patronage, than that which preserves for the admiration of future ages, the forms and features of men, whose deeds have shed a halo of glory around their native land! It appeals for support, to every proud feeling, whether state or national, of the American heart. Here the men of *New-Hampshire*, *Massachusetts* and *Rhode-Island*, may hold converse with the spirits of their LANGDONS, their FRANKLINS and their GREENES; and here the *Carolinian* and the *Virginian* may come to talk with the shade of LAURENS of the mazes of diplomacy, and with that of WASHINGTON of the art of war. Here will the thoughtful and majestic brow of HAMILTON strike with melancholly awe the mind of the young jurist, and kindle in his bosom the pure and unquenchable flame of a lofty and generous emulation; and here will the youth of genius and piety, who trims his lamp to explore the sublime region of Theology, catch from the features of a WITHERSPOON, a BENTLEY, a DAVIES, a DWIGHT, or a MOORE, the inspiration of his celestial calling, and devote himself with renewed energy to the cause of his immaculate Redeemer. As no state in the Union is without its heirs of fame, so will no man of feeling, of any state, ever enter this grand assemblage of reflected worthies, without recognising some one among the group, which he will linger to contemplate; and the contemplation of which will call up associations of ideas, that will swell his heart with emotions too big for utterance, and fill his mind with unspeakable delight.

Fellow-countrymen, of every section of the Union, we conjure you by the ties of patriotism, by your love of all that is great and good in humanity! By the gratitude, which you owe to the gallant and enterprising men who led you, when infant colonies, through the dark and bloody mazes of savage warfare, to peace, safety and prosperity! By the still more high and hallowed, and irredeemable debt, due to the sages and warriors who stood upon the watch-tower of your liberties, and breasted themselves to the shock of battle, in your contest for national existence! By every pure and generous emotion of your hearts, which mingles with the past, and renders dear to you the dawning fame of your country; or which binds you to the future, and awakens solicitude for the honor and welfare of posterity! By all these we conjure you to cherish an enterprise, which aims to preserve the features of your mighty dead, to light future generations in the paths of virtue and of glory; to be feasted upon, with enthusiastic reverence, through the lapse of ages to come, by the imagination of the votaries of genius, of patriotism, of science, liberty and religion—the

"fond adorers of departed fame,
"Who warm at Scipio's worth and Tully's name!"

H. H. jr.

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## ADDRESS

*Delivered before the Agricultural Society of Saratoga county, at the Annual Fair, on the 13th October*, 1819.

BY ELISHA POWELL, *President.*

GENTLEMEN,

The distinguished honour conferred on me, in electing me to preside over so respectable a society, demands and receives my most respectful acknowledgments.

The first anniversary of this society is an event of the utmost importance, as the future prosperity and usefulness of the society depends, in no small degree, on the first impression made on the public mind.

Those of you who have been the principal promoters of the society, and who feel the greatest interest in its success, have looked forward to the present occasion with much anxiety for the result. But when you look at the difficulties which have been uniformly encountered in the formation of other similar societies, and particularly one formed in a neighbouring state, where the advocates of the measure had to encounter prejudices almost insurmountable, and when you contemplate the incalculable improvements which have resulted from the operation of that and similar societies in our own state, and particularly after witnessing the pleasing exhibition which you have witnessed on the present occasion, I think you ought no longer to despond. Take courage, gentlemen, renew your exertions, and success beyond your most sanguine anticipations will unavoidably crown your labours. I flatter myself that the time is not far distant, when each one of you may, on viewing the improvements which shall have taken place in the agriculture and manufactures of the county, look back on the part you have acted, with pleasing satisfaction: and while others are striving, by achievements in war, to immortalize their names by destroying the lives of their fellow-beings, let ours be the laudable, the agreeable, task of endeavouring to procure from the earth the greatest possible means of support and happiness for our fellow-beings.

The science of agriculture, gentlemen, is the most ancient, and may, with propriety, be termed the most important of all sciences, being designed by the great author of nature, as the immediate source of our subsistence; and it is of all employments the best calculated to raise our contemplations to the all-wise ruler of the universe, and to teach us our dependance on him, from day to day, from whose liberal munificence we derive all our enjoyments; and it is certainly the most agreeable to our natures, as the labours of the field are more conducive to the health of the

body than any other employment. Agriculture is the most natural employment; if not, why that anxiety in the breast of almost every man, to leave all other employments, let them be never so lucrative or honourable, to spend the evening of life in cultivating his farm. The statesman, the judge, the physician, the lawyer, the merchant, all look forward with pleasing expectation to the day when they may withdraw from the labour and bustle of professional life, to the calm pursuits of agriculture. As an illustration of my position, witness the four first chief magistrates of our happy country; all men who will not lose by a comparison with the greatest men of any country: yet they all, with pleasing satisfaction, descend from the height of political elevation, mix with their fellow-citizens, and spend the evening of life in cultivating the soil. I might proceed to enumerate many others, whose names will be long held in the highest estimation for their labours to improve the agriculture of their country: but I forbear, lest comparison might appear partial: and it is a pleasing reflection, that agriculture is assuming its proper rank in the world, instead of being looked upon as second to many other professions, as has recently been the case. The farmer, is now permitted, by universal consent, (as he certainly ought to be) to take a distinguished rank among the other professions.

It may, perhaps, be expected, that I should attempt to recommend some particular system of farming: but although far advanced in life, I am young in the agricultural profession, having spent the greater part of my life in a profession which afforded little opportunity to acquire a knowledge of the practical part of farming. I have not the vanity to think myself capable of instructing those I see around me; many of whom have lived longer than myself, and who have spent their lives in agricultural pursuits: and there has been so much said and written on the subject, that were I to attempt the task, I should despair of imparting any new idea I shall therefore make but few observations on that subject.

Although I am f lly convinced of the importance of science in farming, yet I think the time has not yet arrived when it would be proper for every man to attempt farming on scientific principles, as there are very few men in our country possessed of sufficient capital to enable them to follow farming as a science. I think it important, however, that every farmer should obtain as much scientific knowledge of his profession as practicable; and it is all important that we give our sons an education embracing all the branches of science calculated to be useful in that profession, to enable them to improve on the experience of their fathers.

As it respects the cultivation of the soil, there is no general rule that will hold good in all cases; for what would be good husbandry on one soil, would be inexcusably bad on a different one; and after all that has or can be said on the subject, much must always depend on experience and observation to enable the husbandman to make a judicious selection of crops, adapted to the nature of the soil; for it would be an idle waste of labour and seed, for instance, to sow winter wheat on some soils, which might produce a good crop of some other kind of grain. The success of farming must depend very much on a judicious rotation of crops, and in never tilling the same piece of ground until the soil is exhausted, before you suffer it to rest; and whenever land is laid down, it is very important that it should be plentifully stocked with clover, or other useful grasses. There is one important item in farming, in which I think farmers are generally very deficient, viz. the management of manure. I am confident, that by suffering it to remain scattered over the barn-yard, during the summer, it loses in quantity and quality, at the most moderate calculation, at least one-third, whereas, by piling it in large piles, in the month of May, or forepart of June, there would not only be a vast saving in the manure; but by heating through the summer, the most part of the seeds of noxious weeds would be destroyed, that would otherwise be carried out on the land, to annoy the succeeding crop; and I am confident, from experience, that if farmers would pile their manure, in the manner mentioned, and at the same time mix an equal quantity of soil, taken from wet places, either in the field or highway, with a small quantity of lime occasionally intermixed, they would find their labour rewarded at least three, if not fourfold.

Permit me, gentlemen, to congratulate you on the flattering prospects before us. The unparalleled improvements which have already taken place in agriculture, in this county, which are manifested in the unheard of produce of the soil, are certainly very cheering. The exhibition of useful animals affords a very strong proof, that the breeds of our stock are fast improving; and the specimens of domestic manufactures, presented on the occasion, add much to the importance of the scene. The marks of female industry and skill, displayed in the several articles exhibited, add a value to the characters of the ladies of Saratoga county, which cannot be too highly estimated.

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## AN ADDRESS

*Delivered before the Agricultural Society of Cayuga county, at their anniversary meeting, held on the 7th day of February*, 1820.

By David Thomas, *President.*

Another anniversary of this society, has brought us together; again has devolved on us the task to consider and decide what changes will be proper among our officers, and what alterations will be necessary in the laws and constitution.

By the constitution, the standing committee are to consist of 10 persons, being one from each town within the county; but this provision is more liberal than just, and experience has shewn that the welfare of the society requires an alteration. In choosing our principal officers, we ought to respect no boundaries but those of the county; we ought to regard the population and not to the district, but not even the population if we cannot select from it an active officer. Partly in consequence of that provision, the executive committee were unable on one important occasion, to form a quorum; members who lived remote, sacrificed time and money to no purpose, and on a second attempt, the requisite number was not obtained without difficulty. This, indeed is the most discouraging aspect which our society presents, and to guard against which, in future, seriously demands your care.

It would be improper, however, not to mention, that all the general Viewing Committee, as well as all those of the principal towns, have shown a laudable zeal in performing the duties for which they were selected, and are well entitled to the thanks of this society.

A difference of opinion has existed relative to adjudging farms, and at this time it may be proper to call your attention to the subject. Some have believed that if 50 acres of a large farm were under better cultivation than a farm of 50 acres, that the first would be e titled to the premium, although the remainder of that farm should be in a slovenly condition. If we enquire what is the object in giving this premium, the answer must be obvious, to induce at least a part of our farmers to set good examples to their neighbours; but can that man be so exemplary as to merit a premium, who permits a part of his farm to be infested with briars or noxous weeds, his meadows encumbered by loose stones, or decaying stumps, his fences in a sate of decay, and his grain fields, or fruit trees injured by the cattle? I feel satisfied indeed that no such instances have happened, but I wish to point your attention to the principle; and I think on a close examination that you must determine that a bad example may also have its influence, and that the applicant ought to be accountable for the whole farm which he pretends to cultivate.

It has been a practice in some agricultural societies to have the report of the general Viewing Committee relative to farms, read at the Cattle-Show. In these reports the improvements and deficiencies are particularly noted, and the citizens at large are instructed. The practice deserves our imitation on another account; those who improperly apply for our premium will be admonished; and those who merit praise will obtain it. For these reasons, I should be much gratified to see this plan fully and impartially executed.

It is very desirable that more regular methods for determining the quantity of produce, be adopted. I allude particularly to what are called summer crops. It is not only important that we should decide right, but that we should stand above the suspicion of having done wrong. The hardship which the honest competitor would suffer, if another should obtain the premium by fraud or error, would be such as to awaken all your sympathies; and yet, in most cases we have trusted to men whose correctness and care we have not fully proved, or whose unsuspecting confidence may have been abused. I do not believe, indeed, that any material errors have been committed; but it is our duty to provide even against suspicion, that he who applies for our premium shall not only be satisfied of the rectitude of our intentions, but also of the correctness of our decisions.

In considering this matter it must be evident that the land on which the produce, offered for a premium, grows, should be truly measured. It may not be improper to say that the surveyor's chain is subject to varieties in its length, and ought therefore be made to conform to the stand and measure deposited in the clerk's office, im-

mediately before entering on this business. In the present day there are but few men, (and I hope for the honour of this county that there are no surveyors) who would not endeavor to bring the chain to a true level; but I am satisfied that to perform the admeasurement accurately both these precautions must be carefully observed.

In measuring the crop equal care will be necessary. The half-bushels which are to be the final test, ought to be gauged for this special purpose. The applicant ought to engage a sufficient number of heads on the appointed day to husk the corn, or to dig the potatoes, so that as soon as the ground is measured off under the inspection of our officers, that in a few hours, the whole produce may be collected and ascertained in their presence. The quality also will require particular attention. I feel confident that too much care in this respect cannot be exercised; that the chain of evidence ought to be complete, and the proof positive.

I should greatly regret that the quantities of wheat and barley cannot be so expeditiously and accurately determined, were it not that the quality rather than the quantity ought to be the criterion of merit. Although good crops are greatly dependant on the hand of industry, yet wheat and barley are less so than any others, and sometimes appear so capricious, that, were we regulated only by the quantity, we should adjudge our premium to the undeserving. There are other methods, however, by which the careful farmer may be distinguished. The cockle, the chess, [cheat] and various other weeds which pollute and impoverish the crop, will stand witnesses against the former class of cultivators, and I earnestly recommend that no premium be adjudged to him who may permit either of those two nuisances to remain in his fields. I trust there are not many who will think these conditions unreasonable. On a former occasion I called your attention to the subject of cockle. It was shewn that the seed will lie for years, if not for ages, in pasture land; and I suggested that our care ought chiefly to be extended to this plant before it attains maturity. The employment of the Rolling Screen, as a precautionary measure, may also prove important. But whatever means the farmer may adopt totally to extirpate this plant, he will be encouraged during the prosecution of this laudable enterprise by the conviction that the perverted vigour of no other seed will re-produce it.

I wish for the credit of some farmers that they could feel the same confidence in destroying *chess*. The vulgar opinion respecting the origin of this plant is too well known to need a particular recital; but perhaps all of you do not know that some are indifferent about its mixing with seed-wheat or seed-rye, alleging that it is never produced by its own seed. When error of opinion results in a practice so preposterous it is time to enter our protest. Perhaps we have all been told of the appearance of this plant in fields of grain where it was never sown; but this seed is so small as to render its detection by a careless observer improbable. It is true that botanists have given us long lists of mule or hybrid plants, but the chess has never had a place assigned in this catalogue. It is not even pretended by the advocates of this belief, that the seed-wheat from which this monster is said to rise, was the offspring of vegetable adultery; they admit that the wheat plant may rise perfect from the ground, but after being injured by cattle, or in unfavourable situations, its nature becomes changed; and the stalk, instead of being crowned with the golden grain, is only loaded with the shrivelled chess. Now, it would be safe to assert that nothing analogous to such transformation can be produced from the vegetable kingdom. It may not be irrelevant, however, to remark, that chess, though a weaker plant than wheat, is yet more hardy; and accordingly where that grain is thick and flourishing, the chess drops among the stubble; but where cattle, and excess of moisture have injured the wheat, the other springs with renewed vigour and fills the vacancy.

But I am well aware of the inefficacy of reason in combatting inveterate prejudices which have been cherished from infancy; and to convince the believers of that doctrine that it is founded in mistake, and unworthy of enlightened minds, I shall refer to facts that admit not of contradiction. The chess is a perfect plant, as different from wheat as the latter is from rye or barley, with seed completely capable of vegetating, and known in science by the name of *Bromus secalinus*.—The Botanist, whose observations are incomparably more close and accurate than the assertors of this doctrine, would no sooner admit this plant to be a degeneracy of nature, because it grows in our wheat fields, than the Zoologist would admit the sheep to be the degenerate offspring of the cow because they feed in the same pasture.

I shall mention another circumstance, which, to some, may appear more conclusive. A farmer who lives in the the vicinity of Philadelphia, and whose varacity I have known by a long acquaintance to be unimpeachable, lately assured me, that for many years not one single stalk of chess appeared in his grain fields, but that it was recently introduced in consequence of changing his seed-wheat.

I shall therefore repeat that no premium ought to be allowed for any crop among which this nuisance is permitted to grow.

Similar restrictions ought to be adopted relative to flax. This crop is sometimes injured by cockle of a different species from that which appears in grain fields, and also by a variety of the *chess*. (I have not learnnd by what supposed metamorphosis the latter rises into existence.) But the *yellow seed* is the plant which most frequently partakes of the nutriment designed for this crop, and which most injuriously adulterates the produce. It is, however, easily extirpated. I have seen a patch of flax standing in which not one stalk of this plant could be found, although the flax-seed was foul with this seed when it was sown. The process which effected its destruction was steeping in brine. Ashes or plaister was then mixed with the seed, to imbibe the mucilage which held it together, and which would have prevented it from scattering.*

* Yellow seed steeped only 24 hours in brine has been found to grow. In the case alluded to in the ADDRESS the seed was steeped 48 hours. It has been steeped a whole week, and though the flax stood thin, it is considered doubtful whether the deficiency ought to be ascribed to the brine, or to the very unfavourable state of the ground where it was sown, and to the inclemency of the weather which succeeded.

For wheat, barley and flax, I therefore believe that the attention of the General Viewing Committee will be sufficient; but would propose for your consideration that at least two of the town committee attend to the measurement or inspection of corn, turnips and potatoes.

You have doubtless learned that the Board of Agriculture has been organized, and a permanent committee selected to prepare, among other important particulars the *annual volume*, agreeably to the direction of the Legislature. I congratulate you on the auspicious commencement of that institution. The PLOUGH BOY, a weekly paper, edited by SOLOMON SOUTHWICK, of Albany, chiefly devoted to rural affairs, has been patronized by the Board; and may be considered as the principal vehicle of agricultural intelligence in the state. Its columns have detailed particular facts, of which no farmer ought to be ignorant; and which alone would be cheaply purchased by one year's subscription. I therefore cordially recommend it to your patronage.

# SELECTIONS.

## Agricultural Chemistry,

*No. XXIX.*

BY HUMPHREY DAVY.

### OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE ATMOSPHERE ON VEGETABLES.

[183] The constitution of the atmosphere has been already generally referred to in the preceding Lectures. Water, carbonic acid gas, oxygene, and azote, have been mentioned as the principal substances composing it; but more minute enquiries respecting their nature and agencies are necessary to afford correct views of the uses of the atmosphere in vegetation.

On these enquiries I now propose to enter; the pursuit of them, I hope, will offer some objects of practical use in farming; and present some philosophical illustrations of the manner in which plants are nourished, their organs unfolded, and their functions developed.

If some of the salt called muriate of lime, that has been just heated red, be exposed to the air, even in the driest and coldest weather, it will increase in weight and become moist; and in a certain time will be converted into a fluid. If put into a retort, and heated, it will yield pure water; will gradually recover its pristine state; and, if heated red, its former weight; so that it is evident, that the water united to it was

[184] derived from the air; and that it existed in the air in an invisible and elastic form, is proved by the circumstance, that if a given quantity of air be exposed to the salt, its volume and weight will diminish, provided the experiment be correctly made.

The quantity of water which exists in air, as vapour, varies with the temperature. In proportion as the weather is hotter, the quantity is greater. At 50 d. of Fahrenheit, air contains about 1-50 of its volume of vapour; and as the specific gravity of vapour is to that of air nearly as 10 to 15, this is about 1-75 of its weight.

At 100 d. supposing that there is a free communication with water, it contains about 1-14 parts in volume, or 1-21 in weight. It is the condensation of vapour by diminution of the temperature of the atmosphere, which is probably the principal cause of the formation of clouds, and of the deposition of dew, mist, snow, or hail.

The power of different substances to absorb aqueous vapour from the atmosphere, by cohesive attraction was discussed in the last Lecture. The leaves of living plants appear to act upon the vapour likewise in its elastic form, and to absorb it. Some vegetables increase in weight from this cause, when suspended in the atmosphere and unconnected with the soil; such are the houseleek, and different species of the aloe. In very intense heats, and when the soil is dry, the life of plants seems to be preserved by the absorbent power of their leaves; and it is a beautiful circumstance in the economy of nature, that aqueous vapour is most abundant in the atmosphere when it

[185] is most needed for the purposes of life; and that when other sources of its supply are cut off, this is most copious.

The compound nature of water has been referred to. It may be proper to mention the experimental proofs of its decomposition into, and composition from, oxygene and hydrogene.

If the metal called potassium be exposed in a glass tube to

a small quantity of water, it will act upon it with great violence; elastic fluid will be disengaged, which will be found to be hydrogene; and the same effects will be produced upon the potassium, as if it had absorbed a small quantity of oxygene; and the hydrogene disengaged, and the oxygene added to the potassium, are in weight as 2 to 15; and if two in volume of hydrogene, and one in volume of oxygene, which have the weights of 2 and 15, be introduced into a close vessel, and an electrical spark passed through them, they will inflame and condense into 17 parts of pure water.

It is evident from the statements given in the third Lecture, that water forms by far the greatest part of the sap of plants; and that this substance, or its elements, enters largely into the constitution of their organs and solid productions.

Water is absolutely necessary to the economy of vegetation in its elastic and fluid state; and it is not devoid of use even in its solid form. Snow and ice are bad conductors of heat; and when the ground is covered with snow, or the surface of the soil or of water is frozen, the roots or bulbs of the plants beneath are protected by the congealed water from the influence of the atmosphere, the temperature of which in northern

[186] winters is usually very much below the freezing point; and this water becomes the first nourishment of the plant in early spring. The expansion of water during its congelation, at which time its volume increases 1-12, and its contraction of bulk during a thaw, tend to pulverise the soil; to separate its parts from each other, and to make it more permeable to the influence of the air.

If a solution of lime in water be exposed to the air, a pellicle will speedily form upon it, and a solid matter will gradually fall to the bottom of the water, and in a certain time the water will become tasteless; this is owing to the combination of the lime, which was dissolved in the water, with carbonic acid gas which existed in the atmosphere, as may be proved by collecting the film and the solid matter, and igniting them strongly in a little tube of platina or iron; they will give off carbonic acid gas, and will become quicklime, which added to the same water, will again bring it to the state of lime water.

The quantity of carbonic acid gas in the atmosphere is very small. It is not easy to determine it with precision, and it must differ in different situations; but where there is a free circulation of air, it is probably never more than 1-500, nor less than 1-800 of the volume of air. Carbonic acid gas is nearly 1-3 heavier than the other elastic parts of the atmosphere in their mixed state: hence, at first view, it might be supposed that it would be most abundant in the lower regions of the atmosphere; but unless it has been immediately produced at the surface of the earth in some chemical process,

[187] this does not seem to be the case; elastic fluids of different specific gravities have a tendency to equable mixture by a species of attraction, and the different parts of the atmosphere are constantly agitated and blended together by winds or other causes. De Saussure found lime water precipitated on Mount Blanc, the highest point of land in Europe; and carbonic acid gas has been always found apparently in due proportion, in the air brought down from great heights in the atmosphere by ærostatic adventurers.

The experimental proofs of the composition of carbonic acid gas are very simple. If 13 grains of well burnt charcoal be inflamed by a burning-glass in 100 cubical inches of oxygene gas, the charcoal will entirely disappear; and provided the experiment be correctly made, all the oxygene, except a few cubical inches, will be found converted into carbonic acid; and what is very remarkable, the volume of the gas is not changed. On this last circumstance it is easy to found a correct estimation of the quantity of pure charcoal and oxygene in carbonic acid gas: the weight of 100 cubical inches of carbonic acid gas is to that of 100 cubical inches of oxygene gas, as 47 to 34; so that 47 parts in weight of carbonic acid gas, must be composed of 34 parts of oxygene and 13 of charcoal, which correspond with the numbers given in the second Lecture.

Carbonic acid is easily decomposed by heating potassium in it; the metal combines with the oxygene, and the charcoal is deposited in the form of a black powder.

[188] The principal consumption of the carbonic acid in the atmosphere, seems to be in affording nourishment to plants; and some of them appear to be supplied with carbon chiefly from this source.

Carbonic acid gas is formed during fermentation, combustion, putrefaction, respiration, and a number of operations taking place upon the surface of the earth: and there is no other process known in nature by which it can be destroyed but by vegetation.

After a given portion of air has been deprived of aqueous vapour and carbonic acid gas, it appears little altered in its properties; it supports combustion and animal life. There are many modes of separating its principal constituents, oxygene and azote, from each other. A simple one is by burning phosphorus in a confined volume of air; this absorbs the oxygene and leaves the azote; and 100 parts in volume of air, in which phosphorus has been burnt, yield 79 parts of azote; and by mixing this azote with 21 parts of fresh oxygene gas artificially procured, a substance having the original characters of air is produced. To procure pure oxygene from air, quicksilver may be kept heated in it, at about 600 d. till it becomes a red powder; this powder, when ignited, will be restored to the state of quicksilver by giving off oxygene.

Oxygene is necessary to some functions of vegetables; but its great importance in nature is in its relation to the economy of animals. It is absolutely necessary to their life. Atmospheric air taken into the lungs of animals, or passed in solution in water through the gills of fishes, loses oxygene; and

[189] for the oxygene lost, about an equal volume of carbonic acid appears.

The effects of azote in vegetation are not distinctly known. As it is found in some of the products of vegetation, it may be absorbed by certain plants from the atmosphere. It prevents the action of oxygene from being too energetic, and serves as a medium in which the more essential parts of the air act; nor is this circumstance unconformable to the analogy of nature; for the elements most abundant on the solid surface of the globe, are not those which are the most essential to the existence of the living beings belonging to it.

The action of the atmosphere on plants differs at different periods of their growth, and varies with the various stages of the developement and decay of their organs; some general idea of its influence may have been gained from circumstances already mentioned: I shall now refer to it more particularly, and endeavour to connect it with a general view of the progress of vegetation.

## OF THE GERMINATION OF SEEDS, &c.

If a healthy seed be moistened and exposed to air at a temperature not below 45 d. it soon germinates; it shoots forth a plume which rises upwards, and a radicle which descends.

If the air be confined, it is found that in the process of germination, the oxygene, or a part of it, is absorbed. The azote remains unaltered; no carbonic acid is taken away from the air, on the contrary some is added.

Seeds are incapable of germinating, except when oxygene is present. In the exhausted receiver of the air-pump, in pure azote, in pure carbonic acid, when moistened, they swell, but do not vegetate; and if kept in these gasses lose their living powers, and undergo putrefaction.

If a seed be examined before germination, it will be found more or less insipid, at least not sweet; but after germination it is always sweet. Its coagulated mucilage, or starch, is converted into sugar in the process; a substance difficult of solution is changed into one easily soluble; and the sugar carried through the cells or vessels of the cotyledods, is the nourishment of the infant plant. It is easy to understand the nature of the change, by referring to the facts mentioned in the third Lecture; and the production of carbonic acid renders probable the idea, that the principal chemical difference between sugar and mucilage depends upon a slight difference in the proportions of their carbon.

The absorption of oxygene by the seed in germination, has been compared to its absorption, in producing the evolution of fœtal life in the egg; but this analogy is only remote. All animals from the most to the least perfect classes, require a supply of oxygene.* From the moment the heart begins to pulsate

[191] till it ceases to beat, the aeration of the blood is constant and the function of respiration invariable; carbonic acid is given off in the process, but the chemical change produced in the blood is unknown; nor is there any reason to suppose the formation of any substance similar to sugar. In the production of a plant from a seed, some reservoir of nourishment is needed before the root can supply sap; and this reservoir is the cotyledon in which it is stored up in an insoluble form, and protected if necessary during the winter, and rendered soluble by agents which are constantly present on the surface. The change of starch into sugar, connected with the absorption of oxygene, may be rather compared to a process of fermentation, than to that of respiration; it is a change effected upon unorganized matter, and can be artificially imitated; and in most of the chemical changes that occur, when vegetable compounds are exposed to air, oxygene is absorbed, and carbonic acid formed or evolved.

It is evident, that in all cases of tillage the seeds should be sown so as to be fully exposed to the influence of the air. And one cause of the unproductiveness of cold clayey adhesive soils is, that the seed is coated with matter impermeable to air.

[192] In sandy soils the earth is always sufficiently penetrable by the atmosphere; but in clayey soils there can scarcely be too great a mechanical division of parts in the process of tillage. Any seed, not fully supplied with air, always produces a weak and diseased plant.

The process of malting, which has been already referred to, is merely a process in which germination is artificially produced; and in which the starch of the cotyledon is changed into sugar; which sugar is afterwards, by fermination, converted into spirit.

It is very evident, from the chemical principles of germination, that the process of malting, should be carried on no farther than to produce the sprouting of the radicle, and should be checked as soon as this has made its distinct appearance. If it is pushed to such a degree as to occasion the perfect developement of the radicle and plume, a considerable quantity of saccharine matter will have been consumed in producing their expansion, and there will be less spirit formed in fermentation, or produced in distillation.

As this circumstance is of some importance, I made in October, 1806, an experiment relating to it. I ascertained by the action of alcohol, the relative proportions of saccharine matter in two equal quantities of the same barley; in one of which the germination had proceeded so far as to occasion protrusion of the radicle to nearly a half an inch beyond the grain in most of the specimens, and in the other of which it had been checked before the radicle was a line in length; the quantity of sugar afforded in the last, was to that in the first nearly as six to five.

* The impregnated eggs of insects, and even fishes, do not produce young ones, unless they are supplied with air, that is, unless the fœtus can respire. I have found that the eggs of moths did not produce larvæ when confined in pure carbonic acid; and when they were exposed in common air, the oxygene partly disappeared, and carbonic acid was formed. The fish in the egg or the spawn, gains its oxygene from the air dissolved in water; and those fishes that spawn in spring and summer, in still water, such as the pike, carp, perch and bream, deposit their eggs upon subaquatic vegetables, the leaves of which, in performing their healthy functions, supply oxygene to the water. The fish that spawn in winter, such as the salmon and trout, seek spots where there is a constant supply of fresh water, as near the sources of streams as possible, and in the most rapid currents, where all stagnation is prevented and where the saturated with air, to which it has been exposed, during its deposition from clouds. It is the instinct, leading these fish to seek a supply of air for their eggs, which carries them from seas, or lakes into the mountain country; which induces them to move against the stream, and to endeavor to overleap wiers, mill-dams, and cataracts.

THE PLOUGH BOY.

ALBANY: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1820.

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

Mr. EDITOR,

ARATOR's glowing description of the slanderer, in your 37th number, brought strongly to my mind the obvious propriety of restoring that distinguished character to his original dignity, by informing the public of his high claims to their respect. That he will be eventually indemnified for our neglect, is no good reason for our being guilty of it.

Though I may do but little in his favour, by just hinting at his origin and connections, yet my conscience will not permit me to withhold that little; and by your kind aid, it may be the means of rousing from his slumbers, some mighty and magnanimous, some ingenious and generous spirit, who may do more, to restore to their forgotten honours, an active and long suffering family.

It ought to be generally known, sir, that in the very title SLANDERER, is involved an idea of great majesty and sublimity. For in the Bible, *Slanderer*, and *Satan*, as well as *Backbiter*, *Beelzebub*, and *Belial*, are almost convertible terms; insomuch, that even the learned in the originals, are often posed to decide which is intended by the inspired writers, whether a *Slanderer* or the *Devil*; so intimately and inseperately are they connected, in spirituals as well as morals.

DIABOLOS, in the Greek, is the word by which both characters are expressed. Not, however, that the Slanderer owes his title to the Devil.—Not at all, sir. No, to the everlasting fame of both the brotherhood and sisterhood, be it spoken, his Satanic majesty himself, owes his universal title on earth, to Slander; far famed and gallant slander, who rides on the posting winds, and

makes the world to know and to feel that there is a power on earth which can make Fortitude, Justice and Innocence to tremble at the shaking of his invisible spear!

Yes, sir, the arch fiend was all untitled and unknown in the heraldry of this world, until in Paradise he slandered the Creator to his creatures. From that act he was called *Diabolos*, which is sometimes rendered by our translators *Devil*, sometimes *Slanderer*, and at others, *Adversary*, *Accuser*, *Informer*, *Spy*, *&c.* as the sense may seem to require; as all these honorable epithets are necessarily included in the original character—SLANDERER. The first-born of this race was the Devil, as hath before been shown.

For all this, if inclined to be pedantic, I might quote, in proof, a dozen of places from the Hebrew Bible and Greek Testament. For the truth is, (I wish it were not the truth,) our translators have so dismembered this goodly family, that, but for the peculiar likeness which still obtains amongst them, there might be danger of forgetting that they were originally from one stock. Happily there is little danger, but the family likeness will always be known and acknowledged to the end of the world; when all *slanderers* and *back-biters*, with the Devil at their head, will march off to their own place—"Like body to like head." I need not, therefore, trouble myself nor you, to prove by much learned lore, that the prince of Hell is indebted, not only for his dominion, but for his title too, to Slander.

Should any of your readers be doubtful, or dissatisfied with this account, and pretend, (which I think would be very unreasonable,) because there is sometimes a striking resemblance where no close connexion exists, that Satan may not, after all, be thus *radically* connected with the family of the SLANDERERS, these doubters are refered o Mr. John Parkhurst, who, after telling them something about it, will send them on to Dr. George Campbell, who will tell them all about it. And they will no longer wonder at the influence which St. Paul and Arator have attributed to SLANDERERS, "before whose eyes there is no fear of God;" but, from good reasons, in their hearts, much love for the Devil.

CEPHAS.

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FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

## Peter's Epistles to his Friend.

*No. III.*

As an illustration of the two principal positions contained in my former epistles, that intemperance is both cruel and disgraceful, you are referred to the case of the late——****.

A few months before he drank his last, disgusted at the sight of one, in a state of intoxication, whom he had been in the habit of regarding with respect, though not then sober, he swore he would never get drunk again—that never again would he touch the inebriating cup.

If in an earlier stage of his career, and in a sober hour he had made the resolution, it is probable he would have kept it; for the contemptible and beastly figure, together with the absurd and silly conversation and conduct of his drunken friend, shocked and disgusted him extremely.

His wretched wife, with tears in her eyes, informed me of this in the presence of her cruel and degraded husband. His children blushed with shame for their perjured drunken father—He nodded assent, swore it was true; and with some comments and elucidations, told it again in his own way. Miserable man! while he moved my indignation and extorted my abhorrence, the most painful emotions of pity, mingled with deep regret, I could not suppress. I knew what he had been, and what he still might have been—one of the most respected and respectable men in the country. But all was over! He was rarely sober for the last ten years of his life.—He went down to the grave in middle age, the victim of intemperance. He died as a fool dieth. Yet death has seldom struck a better blow. He had been the scourge and shame of his family and friends long enough. You knew him well, my friend. And from him take warning, that the same may not also be said of you. How dreadful the thought! none but madmen refuse to take warning of imminent and certain danger; I shall not, therefore, urge it upon you. But let me remind you, that it may be of infinite advantage, to bear constantly in mind, the incalculably dreadful consequences of this beastly vice. And in my next, I will endeavour to show you, that *an intemperate man cannot be an honest man.* An argument against the vice in question, that *you* will not despise. Until which, and always, may you be sober and happy. PETER.

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## WATERFORD FEMALE ACADEMY.

As we have ever felt a deep interest in the success of the female Academy of Waterford, it gives us pleasure to have it in our power to record, in favor of that institution, in the columns of *The Plough Boy*, the following letter from the venerable JOHN ADAMS. The question for patronizing the Academy, is now, we believe, before the Legislature, and it is to be hoped that there may be no diversity of sentiment on a question of such importance to the happiness of mankind.

QUINCY, MONTIZELLO, *Dec.* 9, 1819.

*Dear Madam,*

I am deeply indebted to you, for your polite and obliging letter, and much more for the elegant, sentimental, and most amiable volume that attended it. The female moiety of mankind deserve as much honor, esteem and respect as the male. The duties of allegiance and obedience are reciprocal in a family, as well as in the state, and similar limitations and restrictions are applicable to both. Whenever I hear of a great man, I always inquire who was his mother; and I believe there have been very few extraordinary men who have not been cherished, and guided in their morals, and their studies, in their infancy, by extraordinary mothers, from the Gracchi to the present hour.

I rejoice that the experiment has been made under the legislature of New-York, who have done no less honour to themselves than to you by their patronage of your university.

Accept, madam, the kindest respects, and warmest wishes of your sincere friend and most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

Mrs. Emma Willard.

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FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

Mr. EDITOR,

It is with pleasure I perceive the citizens o Boston, with their characteristic benevolence, have set about rearing another bulwark to perpetuate the liberties of the republic. I allude to the establishment of an *Apprentice's Library*, in that town.

Such an institution, if properly managed, cannot fail of producing the most beneficial results, both on the morals and usefulness of those to whose improvemet it is to be devoted. I understand that upwards of *one thousand* volumes have already been donated, and that it is probable many more will be bestowed.

It is not my intention to pourtray the benefits of such an institution: they must be obvious to every man of judgment. I wish merely to express my approbation of the plan, and suggest the propriety of emulating this noble example, in this city. I am fully persuaded, that if such a project were set on foot, by the proper persons, it would meet with the most liberal patronage.—I hope you may notice this subject in your useful paper. A MECHANIC.

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FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

## TRANSLATION

*From the Abbe Rozier's Universal Dictionary of Agriculture—v. 2, p. 677.*

CANCER.—The mouth of the ox, the horse, and the ass, and especially the tongue, are the seat of this disorder It shews itself by a tumour, filled with a reddish and running humour, which breaks through and produces a cavity, increasing in a very short time so as to destroy the adjoining parts; the sores, filled with serositous matter, and sometimes terminated by a black spot, are true cancers, which being open, destroy the tongue and neighbouring parts, unless stopped in their progress.

The cancers are healed by scraping them with any instrument so as to make them bleed, and by washing the wound often with vinegar, in which rue and garlic have been infused, and by adding to it some camphorated brandy.

The animals attacked are easily cured by this method. In 1773, we saw a great many horses and mules sick with it; several lost their tongues, in the hands of the blacksmith farriers, because they knew not the remedy.

This disorder is *epizootique*; then it is called flying cancer, *poisonous blister*, carbuncle to or at the tongue.

We have before us the *Asiatic Mirror*, published at Calcutta, July 28, 1819. We extract from it the following article, by which the readers of *The Plough Boy* will perceive, that a disorder then prevailed among the horses and cattle of Asia, similar to that which has recently appeared here, and which seems, when we consider the date of the Asiatic account, to have progressed from the eastern to the western hemisphere, as it has now reached the eastern section of the United States.

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*To the Editor of the Asiatic Mirror.*

SIR,

The increase in Veterinarian knowledge in India has at last awakened the minds of scientific men to discussion on the subject of horses. Permit me then through the channel of your paper to request also their attention and advice on the disorder called by the natives Puckah, which has committed such depredations on the bullocks and cows of whole districts, and for want of scientific treatment has been the death of thousands of plough bullocks, and those that have recovered, are rendered unable to work for some months.

Although I am inadequate to give the technical terms, I will state in plain language the symptoms of the disease. In the first stage the bullock is seized with dulness attended with fever. He refuses his food and is shunned by his companions in health. The second stage commences on the third day. A salivation ensues attended with great discharge of Saliva and lasts three or four days, during which period he eats very little, though his thirst is great. If he recovers in this stage, he can be made fit for work in twelve or fifteen days; but when the disorder is virulent, being the third stage, and about the seventh or eighth day, it attacks the feet, and a putrid offensive Ichor issues from the hoofs, which the flies attack, and for want of attention fill with worms. In this state it gets so bad that the bullock can hardly stand, and this continues for twelve or fifteen days, and the cattle generally die in this stage of the disorder. Those that recover are incapable of work for months.

The country remedies I am perfectly acquainted with, but have witnessed their inadequacy. This disorder is infectious and comes on at no particular season; but is most mild during the hot weather. A remedy for this disorder communicated through the channel of your paper, Mr. Editor, will not only confer an obligation, but be of the highest possible benefit to that community who by the labours of these dumb sufferers furnish the means of subsistence to all classes.

I am, Sir,
Your's, &c.
A FARMER.

## Weekly Summary.

From the report of the canal commissioners, it appears that the middle section is completed, that 75 miles of it was navigated last fall, and that the setting in of the frosts only prevented the navigation of the whole It appears that the total expense of this section is 1,125,983 dollars, which is 104,132 dollars more than the expense was estimated at previous to the commencement of making this part of the canal. This additional expense has mostly accrued in consequence of making the canal 10 feet wider than it was originally intended, in those parts where it is raised above the surface of the adjoining grounds, as well as by constructing stone work for carrying it over several streams where wood work was originally intended; partly also on account of encountering hard and stony substances, in excavation, where the surface of the ground afforded no indications of these. Among the stony substances is a large proportion of gypsum, which was found in sections 27, 28, 59 and 63, of the canal.

The commissioners appointed by the last legislature of this state, in regard to the state-prison, at New-York, have lately reported, that since its establishment, the number of convicts received there were 4,422; of these, 2,331 have been pardoned; 1,037 served out their time; 513 died; 33 have escaped; and 595 were then remaining there. The committee attribute much of the apparent inefficacy of this mode of punishing criminals to the frequency of the cases where the pardoning power has been exercised, observing at the same time, that the frequent extension of this power latterly became requisite in order to afford room for new convicts. They observe, that near Kingsbridge, and in various other parts of Westchester county, are extensive quarries of good marble, and they propose the erection of a new state-prison, the walls of which shall include 40 acres of one of these quarries, and that the labour of the convicts be confined principally to working marble, the avails of which will be mostly clear profit.—They estimate the expense of such an enclosure, with buildings for the convicts, at 150,000 dollars, and they calculate that such a prison would contain 2,000 convicts, and that these might be mostly employed to advantage in working marble; that in such case the expense of maintaining the convicts would not exceed 50 dollars a year, while their earnings would probably average 75 cents per day. The commissioners also report, from an examination of the prisons of a similar nature at Philadelphia and Baltimore, they could perceive nothing in the management of either that would be beneficial to adopt.

In our seaport towns, the great increase of pauperism, and its causes, are exciting attention. The two principal causes appear to be—1. an uncommon influx of poor from foreign countries—2. *habits*, generated in the days of our uncommon commercial prosperity, which are much easier to slide into than to get out of again. Time will probably do most in correcting this evil. Heavier duties on ardent spirits, in order that malt liquors might be more generally brought into use, would probably also assist considerably. In New-York, the great number of tippling-houses, a spirit of litigation, and a decline in religious sentiments, are also assigned as causes of the increase of the poor, it being ascertained that as many as 75,000 of the inhabitants of the city attend no place of public worship.

His Excellency De Witt Clinton has been elected an honorary member of the London Horticultural society, in the class of distinguished foreigners, which consists of twenty.

From Washington we are informed that the late dispatches received from Madrid, announce that the Spanish government had refused all further correspondence with Mr. Forsyth; and that general Vives, the minister appointed to be sent to this country, was at Paris, in December last, on his way for this country. From other accounts, we learn that the Spanish legation, at Washington, are to be replaced by others, those at W. having been appointed to foreign embassies; that some of the principal of the ministers of Ferdinand had been displaced; that Don Onis, disgusted with his treatment at home, had still sufficient interest to get appointed minister to Russia; that the affairs of his majesty with this country gave him no concern whatever; and that nothing but feasting and banqueting, at Madrid, on account of the new queen, was the order of the day.

Died, at Newport, R. I. on the 15th ult. WILLIAM ELLERY, Esq. in the 94th year of his age. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, but four of whom are left remaining, viz. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, William Floyd, and Charles Carrol.

The legislature of New-Jersey have passed a law for excluding the steam-boats of other states from navigating the waters of that state, where such states do not admit a reciprocity in this respect; of course the information we recently had on this subject proves to be unfounded.

In Pennsylvania, governor Findlay has been charged with corruption in his office, which, on legislative enquiry into the matter, proves to be unfounded—six of the committee, appointed to examine into the matter, voting for his acquittal—one against it.

Of the efficacy of the scullcap, in the cure of canine madness, the following case is worthy of note. In January last, a little daughter of a Mr. Tice, of Ulster county, was seized with this malady, and had arrived to that stage of it, before the nature of her disorder was suspected, that she would creep on all fours about the room, and bark like a dog Physicians being called, they perceived the nature of her case, and prescribed the scullcap, which was administered, at first with difficulty; but on being enabled to increase the doses, the child became freed of the spasms, and apparently well. The infatuated parents, however, believing her bewitched, ordered the medicine to be discontinued, when the spasms returned with such violence, accompanied with such a dread of water, that any further use of the medicine became impracticable.—The writer of the account adds his conviction that the child might have been saved if the use of the scullcap had not been discontinued.

From Baltimore upwards of 5,000 dollars have been raised by subscriptions for the relief of the citizens of Savannah. From a late account from this latter city, an abortive attempt has been made to set the remaining buildings of that town on fire.

At Savannah, Mr. Philip Brasch, a benevolent baker, of that city, gratuitously supplied all the necessitous of the place, who had suffered by the late fire, with bread, for eight days after that event.

### FOREIGN.

The late law passed by the British parliament, for the avowed purpose of suppressing libellous publications, imposes a duty of four pence sterling on all pamphlets, including weekly journals, &c. Printers are to give security to the amount of £500, for publishing nothing which shall be adjudged libellous within the meaning of the act; and if convicted a second time of offending against this law, they are to be banished.

From a London paper we see a detailed account of the grand *fete* that was given by the Spanish ambassador on account of the nuptials of Ferdinand. The fete, on account of the great expense, show, and parade, attending it, must have cost more than 100,000 dollars. Tables were prepared for about 150 guests, and they abounded, amongst other very costly things, with all the green growths of the summer, such as green peas, strawberries, &c. The Prince Regent was one of the guests. A mob of upwards of 4,000, as is said, was collected round the house; the Prince, as he made his entree, was hissed and hooted by the mob, and it became necessary to call in military aid to prevent any outrages on the part of the multitude.

From Manchester, Eng. of Dec. 16, we learn that a revolutionary committee, ten in number, while assembled together at Naden, about 9 miles from that town, were taken into custody, under the direction of its magistrates. From London it also appears that a motion in the House of Lords was to be made for the committal of Sir Francis Burditt to the tower on account of the part he has taken in regard to the imprisonment of Mr. Hobhouse.

The English government have employed Sir H. Davy to devise some chemical preparation calculated for the purpose of being enabled to unroll the manuscripts found in the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Sir W. Gill is to superintend the copying of them, and a learned philologist is to publish them.

The naval force, at Cadiz, intended for the great expedition, was 5 ships of the line, 8 frigates, 7 or 8 sloops and brigs, and 50 gun vessels, carrying each two 24 pounders, besides a number of transports, badly manned, and wanting much repairs.

Farther and later accounts from South America confirm the intelligence, lately published, that the general Bolivar has been completely triumphant over the Spanish general Morillo, and that the affairs of the patriots are now in a flourishing situation. It is stated that the revolution in that country has cost the lives of 250,000 of its inhabitants.

*MARRIED,*

At Greenbush, on Saturday the 19th ult. by the Rev Mr. Westervelt, Mr. ALBERT HAYDEN, to Miss ANN HILTON, both of this city.

PRESENT PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE IN THIS MARKET.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Superfine flour $6—Rye flour $2 75 per bbl.—Indian meal $1 50 cwt.—Buckwheat flour $1 25 to $1 75 cwt.—Wheat 87 cents to $1 6 bush.—Rye 54—Corn 44—Oats 31—Flax-seed $1 50—Barley 75—Peas 50 to 62 1-2 per bush.

Beef, stall fed $6 cwt.—common beef $3 to $4 50—Pork $4 to 5, Mutton 3 to 4 cents per lb.

Hay, average, 37 1-2 cents per cwt.

Butter 10 to 12 cents per lb.—Cheese, good, $6 per cwt.—Cider $2 per bbl.—Potatoes 30 cents per bushel.—Turnips, ruta baga, 37 1-2 cent—white, 25 cents.

LUMBER.—Pine plank 14 cents—white p. do. 18—do. boards, good, $2 100 ft. com. $1 do.—Shingles, good, $1 50 per bundle.

*Albany, March* 3, 1820.

# PRICE CURRENT.

*Corrected Weekly, from the New-York General Price Current and Public Sales Report.*

| | Per | From D. | From C. | To D. | To C. | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ASHES, Pot | Ton | 115 | | 116 | 25 | Dull. |
| —— Pearl | | 117 | | | | " |
| BEEF, Mess | bbl | 10 | 25 | 10 | 50 | |
| —— Prime | | 8 | 37 | | | |
| —— Cargo | | 6 | 25 | | | |
| BUTTER, first quality | lb | | 15 | | 16 | |
| —— for exportation | | | 9 | | 11 | |
| CANDLES, mould | | | 18 | | 19 | |
| —— Dipped | | | 17 | | | |
| —— Sperm. | | | 44 | | 45 | |
| —— Wax | | | 60 | | | |
| CHEESE, American | | | 6 | | 7 | |
| CHOCOLATE, New-York | | | 17 | | 24 | |
| —— Boston, No. 1. | | | 17 | | 24 | |
| —— Albany | | | 20 | | 25 | |
| DOMESTIC GOODS, | | | | | | |
| —— White shirting | yard | | 14 | | 18 | |
| —— Brown do | | | 12 | | 13 | |
| —— 3-4 checks | | | 16 | | 18 | |
| —— 7-8 do | | | 21 | | 22 | |
| —— 4-4 do | | | 24 | | 27 | |
| —— Stripes | | | 16 | | 18 | |
| —— Plaids | | | 16 | | 20 | |
| —— Bed-ticks | | | 23 | | 36 | |
| —— Chambrays | | | 14 | | 15 | |
| FEATHERS | lb | | 55 | | 62 | |
| FISH, Dry Cod | cwt | 2 | 50 | 2 | 87 | |
| —— scale | | 2 | | | | |
| —— Pickled Cod | bbl | 3 | 50 | 4 | | |
| —— scale | | 2 | | | | |
| —— Salmon | | 15 | | | | |
| —— Fall mackrel No. 1 | | 8 | | 8 | 75 | |
| —— —— No. 2 | | 5 | 50 | 6 | | |
| —— —— No. 3 | | 4 | 50 | 5 | | |
| —— Southern shad No. 1 | | 5 | 50 | 7 | | |
| —— Connecticut mess shad | | 10 | 50 | 11 | | |
| —— Herrings | | 2 | 50 | 3 | | |
| FLAX | lb | | 16 | | 18 | |
| FLAX-SEED, clean | cask | 13 | | 13 | 50 | |
| —— rough | | 12 | | 13 | | |
| FLOUR & GRAIN | | | | | | |
| —— New-York superfine | 1 b. | 5 | 87 | 6 | | |
| —— Philadelphia | | 6 | 50 | 6 | 75 | |
| —— Baltimore | | 6 | 62 | | 75 | |
| —— Richmond | | 6 | | 6 | 25 | |
| —— Middlings, fine | | 4 | | 4 | 75 | |
| —— Rye flour | | 3 | 62 | | | |
| —— Indian meal | | 3 | 75 | 4 | | |
| —— —— in hogsheads | 300 | 18 | | 19 | 50 | |
| —— Wheat, North River | bus. | | 87 | 1 | | |
| —— —— Southern, new | | 1 | 9 | 1 | 10 | |
| —— Barley | | | 65 | | 68 | |
| —— Oats | | | 40 | | 49 | |
| GLASS, Amer. 7 by 9 | box | 9 | | | | |
| —— 8 10 | | 10 | | | | |
| —— 10 12 | | 12 | | 12 | 50 | |
| GLUE | lb | | 12 | | 13 | |
| GUN-POWDER, Amer. | 25lb | 5 | | 6 | | |
| —— Cannon | | 6 | | 6 | 50 | |
| HAMS, Virginia | lb | | 10 | | 12 | |
| —— North River | | | 9 | | 11 | |
| HEMP, Water rot | Ton | | | | | None. |
| —— Dew rot | | 150 | | | | Scarce. |
| HOGSLARD | lb | | 11 | | 12 | |
| HONEY | | | 15 | | 16 | |
| HOPS 1st and 2d sort | | | 6 | | 8 | |
| IRON, American | Ton | 85 | | 90 | | |
| LUMBER, Boards, oak | Mft | 18 | | | | |
| —— North River pine | | 16 | | 17 | | |
| —— Yellow pine | | 18 | | 20 | | |
| —— Albany pineb'ds | pie. | | 18 | | | |
| —— Scantling, pine | Mft | 14 | | 15 | | |
| —— —— oak | | 25 | | | | |
| —— Oak timber | sd. ft | | 20 | | 25 | |
| —— Shingles, cypress | 1000 | 4 | | | | |
| —— —— pine | | 3 | | 3 | 50 | |
| —— Staves, pipe | | 60 | | | | |
| —— —— hhd | | 46 | | | | |
| —— —— bbl | | 28 | | | | |
| —— —— R O hhd | | 28 | | | | |
| —— Hhd heading | | 54 | | | | |
| —— —— hoops | | 25 | | 30 | | |
| OIL, Linseed | gal | 1 | | | | |
| PLAISTER of PARIS | Ton | 4 | 50 | | | |
| PORK, Cargo | bbl | 10 | 50 | | | |
| —— Prime | | 12 | 25 | 12 | 50 | |
| —— Mess | | 14 | 75 | 15 | 25 | |
| SOAP White | | | 13 | | 15 | |
| —— Brown | | | 9 | | 11 | |
| WAX, Bees, white | | | 55 | | 60 | |
| —— —— yellow | | | 31 | | 32 | |

*New-York, February* 18, 1820.

## Summary.

[OMITTED LAST WEEK.]

At Mobile, the erection of fortifications for the protection of the place, are going on with activity, under the superintendance of colonel Hawkins, of this state. It is stated, that when these are completed, they will render the town of Mobile, and those up the Alabama, secure from any foreign force.

The Norfolk Herald, of the 9th inst. mentions a case of extreme brutality Matthews, the mate of a sloop, lying below that town, was rowed to that place by two of the hands; one a black man; his performance in rowing not pleasing the mate, who it seems was intoxicated, an altercation ensued, which terminated by the throat of the black man being cut by the mate. Fortunately, however, the jugular vein was not cut, so that the black man is like to recover. The mate was immediately secured.

The U. S. ship Cyane, and the ship Elizabeth, lately sailed from New-York with about 50 coloured men, mechanics and labourers, for the purpose of founding a new colony on the western coast of Africa, under the late act of congress. Agents, &c. were also sent to contract for lands for the purpose, and to superintend the affairs of this infant colony — The Cyane is afterwards to cruise for the purpose of detecting slave trading vessels, and due provision is made for the protection of such slaves as may be captured in any such vessels. The colonization society are also soon to send out a recruit of colonists to the place fixed upon for commencing the settlement. It is to be hoped that great events, highly beneficial to this country, and to Africa, may yet grow out of this small beginning.

It appears that the present winter closed without any essential rise of the Ohio. Of course the steam-boat navigation on that stream, and its tributaries, has been very unpropitious for the last fall. By a letter from that quarter we have an account of upwards of 30 of these vessels either lying aground, or unable to proceed, from the lowness of the water, and the early setting in of winter. Some were also aground in the Mississippi and Missouri. The bilious fever has also made a considerable diminution of some of the crews of the vessels.

*Shipwrecks.*—The armed brig Le Tigre, in going round from Bridgtown, N. J. to New-York, was driven on the outer bar of Barnegat, where she went to pieces, and all on board were lost. The ship Wallace, belonging to Salem, Mass. on her passage from Batavia to Hamburgh, was lost at Loronet, near Etaples. The master, and 3 others lost —remainder of the officers and crew arrived at Bologne.

A mine of platina has lately been discoyered in the state of Ohio. Platina is a metal of late discovery. it resembles silver in appearance, but is of about the same weight of gold.

During the last month, two men, one of the name of Grinsett, the other Eaton, in attempting to cross the Niagara river, near Youngstown, got their boat so hemmed in with ice that they were unable to extricate it, and in this situation were carried by the current into lake Ontario, where they perished with the cold.

*Indian Jurisprudence.*—The Cherokees, in their advance towards civilization, have established something like a judiciary. On a complaint lately made to one of their judges, for an assault and battery, he ordered the sheriff to bring the parties concerned in the matter before him. The sheriff returned without either. Where is the defendant, said the judge? I gave him 15 lashes, said the sheriff. Where is the plaintiff? I gave him 15 also. Where is the witness? I gave him 25 lashes. For what? Because if he had held his tongue there would have been no fracas about the matter.

In Alabama, a law against duelling has been passed, subjecting the offenders to 3 months imprisonment, to fines of 2,000 dollars on each, and incapacitating them from holding any elective office.

At Quebec, the greatest cold we have seen an account of was 46 deg. below 0 of Fahrenheit. About 34 deg. we believe is about the most intense cold known here during this or any preceding winter.

The National Intelligencer says that a bankrupt law will not probably be enacted this present session of congress, owing, as it would seem, to too much time being consumed in the Missouri question.

The legislature of Maryland have passed a law for the staying of executions, and provides for the payment of judgments by three equal instalments, giving a year between the payment of the first and the last—the first to be on the last of November next.

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*Black Foot.*—A correspondent has sent us the following receipt for curing a disease now prevalent among horses, called the black foot. Take 1 oz. rosin, 2 oz. bees wax, 1-2lb. of hogs-lard, the same of turpentine or tar, 2 oz. honey; simmer them in a kettle, over a gentle fire until they are dissolved; then strain it through a cloth, after which, add two oz. of verdegris pulverized. It will be well to wash the sores with strong soap suds every morning until the cure is effected, which will be in a few days.

*Onondaga Register.*

## Sale of Land for Taxes.

*State of New-York—Comptroller's Office.*

PUBLIC Notice is hereby given, that lists of certain lands liable to be sold for taxes, have been forwarded to the several counties in this state, in order to be deposited in the several county treasurers' and town clerks' offices, respectively, for the information of all persons concerned; and that the said lists may be examined at either of the said offices, at all reasonable hours: And notice is hereby also given, that on *Thursday, the seventh day of October next*, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the capitol, in the city of Albany, and on the next succeeding days, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, so much of each lot, piece or parcel of land mentioned and described in the said lists, as will be necessary to pay all taxes, interest and charges now due, or that may grow and may be due thereon at the time of sale.

The conditions of sale will be, that the purchasers within forty-eight hours after the sale, pay the purchase moneys and receive certificates of their purchases; and that after the expiration of two years from the date of their certificates, they receive conveyances for the lands purchased by them respectively, unless the owners, or those claiming to be such, of the lands so purchased, shall, previous to the expiration of the said two years, pay to the comptroller, for the use of the said purchasers, their heirs and assigns, the amount of the purchase moneys, with interest, at the rate of twenty per centum per annum.—The lands sold to be subject to all claims of the state thereon. And in case any land to be purchased at the said sale and that may be conveyed in pursuance thereof, shall at the time of conveyance be in the actual possession and occupancy of any person or persons, the title of the purchaser shall then and in that case be subject to the stipulations and provisions of the fifth section of the act, entitled "an act to repeal in part the act, entitled "an act providing more effectually to ascertain and determine the true value of real estates within this state, and for other purposes," and further to amend the act for the assessment and collection of taxes" passed April 13, 1819.

ARCH'D. M'INTYRE, Comptroller.

Albany, May 27th, 1819.

☞ Persons who may have made payments into the treasury for taxes, and omitted to have their receipts presented at the comptroller's office to have them entered and countersigned as required by law, are advised to present them in order to be so entered and countersigned before the day of sale; or that in case of failing to do so, their lands will be sold, and they thereafter be deprived of the benefit of all such payments.

Payments for taxes cannot be received on the days of sale, nor for two days prior to the sale.

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☞ The above mentioned sale is postponed untill Tuesday, the eighth day of February next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

ARCH'D M'INTYRE, *Comptroller.*

Albany, October 2, 1819.

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☞ Agreeably to an act of the legislature, passed this day, the above sale is further postponed until the first Tuesday of February, in the year 1821, to be then held at the same place and hour. ARCHD. M'INTYRE, *Comptr.*

*Albany, February* 4, 1820.

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BY JOHN O. COLE.

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